THE ROMANCE OF RHODE ISLAND—

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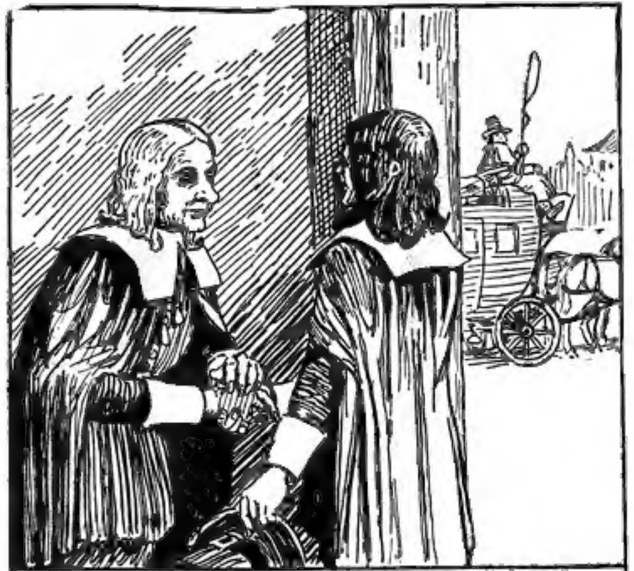
A Tercentenary History of 300 Years—Arranged and Illustrated By Wilfred Jo

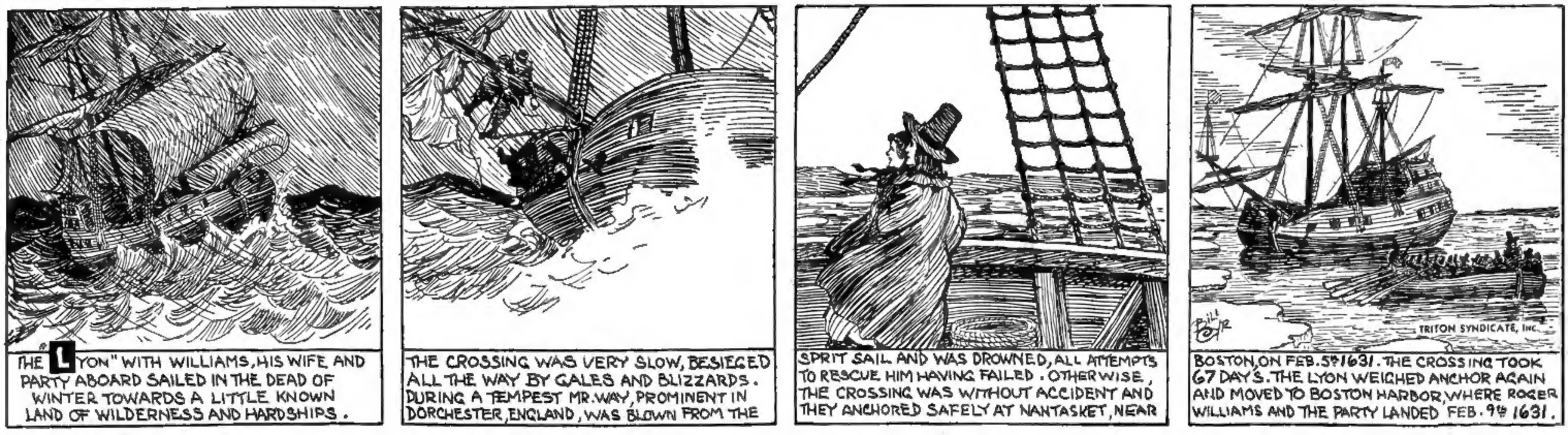
THE FOUNDER OF RHODE ISLAND WAS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL - A PURITAN. HE WAS BORN IN 1602 OR 1603 IN THE

CITY OF LONDON. THE RECORDS OF HIS BIRTH WERE DESTROYED IN THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON IN 1666. IN THE SPRING OF 1629 THE YOUNG MINISTER HAD A DISAPPOINTING



LOVE AFFAIR, BUT ON DEC. 15TH OF THE SAME YEAR HE MARRIED MARY BARNARD. AMONG HIS MANY FRIENDS WAS SIR EDWARD COKE, HIS PATRON AND PATTERN. BUT EVEN AT THE COST OF BREAKING

SUCH A FRIENDSHIP HE WOULD NOT CHANGE HIS RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINT. SO IN COMPANY WITH OTHER PURITANS HE SAILED WITH HIS WIFE FROM BRISTOL HARBOR DEC. 1ST 1630.


THE LYON" WITH WILLIAMS, HIS WIFE AND PARTY ABOARD SAILED IN THE DEAD OF WINTER TOWARDS A LITTLE KNOWN LAND OF WILDERNESS AND HARDSHIPS.
THE CROSSING WAS VERY SLOW, BESIEGED ALL THE WAY BY GALES AND BLIZZARDS. DURING A TEMPEST MR. WAY, PROMINENT IN DORCHESTER, ENGLAND, WAS BLOWN FROM THE
SPRIT SAIL AND WAS DROWNED, ALL ATTEMPTS TO RESCUE HIM HAVING FAILED. OTHERWISE, THE CROSSING WAS WITHOUT ACCIDENT AND THEY ANCHORED SAFELY AT NANTASKET, NEAR
BOSTON, ON FEB. 5th 1631. THE CROSSING TOOK 67 DAYS. THE LYON WEIGHED ANCHOR AGAIN AND MOVED TO BOSTON HARBOR, WHERE ROGER WILLIAMS AND THE PARTY LANDED FEB. 9th 1631.
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BECAUSE OF HIS HIGH STANDING, ROGER WILLIAMS WAS MET BY GOVERNOR WINTHROP AND OTHERS OF PROMINENCE

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THE EAGER MINISTER SCANNED THE WILDERNESS INTO WHICH HE WAS WELCOMED, AND FROM WHICH HIS VERY WELCOMERS WOULD LATER BANISH HIM.

WILLIAMS WAS CHOSEN TEACHER OF BOSTON BUT REFUSED. HERE IS HIS REASON AS HE WROTE IT IN 1670," BECAUSE I DURST NOT OFFICIATE TO AN UNSEPARATE PEOPLE...AS I

FOUND THEM TO BE." TWO MONTHS AFTER HE ARRIVED IN BOSTON, HE RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE SALEM CHURCH TO BE MINISTER THERE. THIS OFFER WILLIAMS ACCEPTED.